

REMARKS

In an Office Action mailed on December 15, 2003, claims 7 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tamura in view of Iwamoto; and claims 20-27 were allowed. Claims 7 and 13 have been cancelled without prejudice; and claims 28-42 have been added. These newly added claims are patentable over the cited art. These newly added claims are patentable over the cited art for the reasons set forth below.

The data receiver of newly added independent claim 28 includes buffers and a first circuit. Each buffer latches a different bit signal. The first circuit for each data signal, generates at least one associated pulse train signal in response to a strobe signal and the data bit signal. A duty cycle of the associated pulse train signal(s) increases with one of an increase and a decrease in a degree of skew between the associated data bit signal and the strobe signal and decreases with the other of an increase and a decrease in the degree of skew.

To the contrary, Iwamoto discloses UP and DOWN signals whose appearance adjusts a timing of a clock signal. For example, the UP and DOWN signals are depicted in Figs. 7E and 7F of Iwamoto. However, the duty cycles of these UP and DOWN signals do not indicate a degree of skew, but rather, the UP signal appears to adjust the timing in one direction, while the DOWN signal appears to adjust the timing in the other direction. Neither of these signals, however, have a duty cycle that increases with one of an increase and a decrease in a degree of skew and decreases with the other of an increase and a decrease in the degree of skew. Likewise, Tamura is silent regarding the characteristic of the signal produced by the phase comparator, and thus, Tamura fails to teach or suggest the missing claim limitations. Therefore, it is submitted that independent claim 28 is patentable in view of the cited art.

Claims 29-34 are patentable for at least the reason that these claims depend from an allowable claim. Therefore, allowance of newly added claims 28-34 is requested.

The method of newly added independent claim 35 includes using a data bit signal on a first strobe signal to generate at least one pulse train signal. A duty cycle of the pulse train signal(s) increase with one of an increase and a decrease in a degree of skew between the data bit

signal and the first strobe signal and decreases with the other of an increase and a decrease in the degree of skew.

For reasons set forth above, neither Iwamoto nor Tamura teaches or suggests the limitations of newly added independent claim 35.

Claims 36-42 are patentable for at least the reason that these claims depend from an allowable claim. Therefore, allowance of claims 35-42 is requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (ITL.0294US).

Respectfully submitted,

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